

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended) An apparatus for coupling to and retrofitting a process device, the apparatus ~~configured to providing~~ a desired Safety Integrity Level (SIL) to the process device, comprising:

- a device interface to retrofit to the process device and provide an output related to operation of a component of the process device, wherein the device interface comprises a connection to a databus of the process device which is used to transfer digital data between the component of the device and a microprocessor of the device;
- a component monitor to retrofit to the process device, monitor data carried on the databus, and monitor operation of the component of the process device based upon the output from the device interface and responsively identify a safety event of the component indicative of a failure of the component and provide a safety event output; and
- a safety response module to retrofit to the process device and respond to the safety event of the component based upon the safety event output in accordance with a safety response.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device interface comprises a sensor coupled to the process device.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the process device couples to a process control loop and ~~the sensor is configured to monitors~~ current flow in the process control loop.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the component monitor compares the sensed current with a current value.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the safety response module controls the current in a process control loop based upon a safety failure.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device interface comprises a watch dog circuit.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device interface ~~is configured to sense~~ power drawn by circuitry of the process device.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device interface couples to a memory.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the component monitor ~~is configured to~~ detects errors in the data stored in the memory.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the safety response module provides an alarm output.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the safety response module disconnects the process device from a process control loop.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the safety response module disconnects circuitry in the process device.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the safety response module attempts to compensate for the safety failure.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the safety response module corrects for errors in data in the device.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the safety response module interpolates between data points in order to correct a data error.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the safety response module holds a previous data point.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the sensor comprises a voltage sensor.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the sensor comprises a current sensor.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the device interface ~~is configured to monitors~~ data carried in a databus of the device. |

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the component monitor comprises software implemented in a microprocessor of the device.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the safety event comprises a possibility of a future component failure.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the safety event comprises a detection of a component failure.

25. (original) A process variable transmitter including the apparatus of claim 1.

26. (original) The transmitter of claim 25 wherein the safety response module is implemented in a feature module which couples to a sensor module.

27. (previously presented) The transmitter of claim 25 wherein the safety response module is implemented in a feature module which couples to a plurality of sensor modules.

28. (currently amended) The transmitter of claim 25 wherein the component monitor ~~is configured to monitors~~ data from a sensor in the sensor module. |

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 25 including a display and wherein the component monitors data sent to the display.

30. (original) A process controller including the apparatus of claim 1.

31. (original) A device in a Safety Instrumented System (SIS) in accordance with claim 1.

32. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the component monitor ~~is configured to~~ monitors a plurality of process devices.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the component monitor and safety response module are implemented in software.

34. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the software ~~is configured to upgrade~~ an existing process device.

35. (currently amended) A feature module in accordance with claim 1 ~~configured to~~ which upgrades an existing process device.

36. (currently amended) A transmitter for use in an industrial process, comprising:

- a sensor module to couple to the process and measure a process variable;

- a feature module to couple to the sensor module and retrofit the transmitter, the feature module including:

- a device interface to couple to the process device and provide an output related to operation of a component of the process device, wherein the device interface ~~is configured to couple~~ to a databus of the sensor module, the databus used to transfer digital data between the component of the device and a microprocessor;

- a component monitor to monitor operation of the component based upon the output from the device interface in response to the data carried on the databus and identify a safety event of the component and provide a safety event output; and

a safety response module in the transmitter ~~configured to which~~ responds to the safety event of the component based upon the safety event output in accordance with a safety response.

37. (previously presented) A method of meeting Safety Integrity Level (SIL) in a process device, comprising:

retrofitting a sensor module of the process device with a feature module;
sensing, from within the process device, operation of a component of the process device with the feature module, by coupling to a databus of the process device which carries data from the component to a microprocessor;
monitoring the sensed operation of the component by monitoring the data carried on the databus, identifying a safety event of the component and providing a safety event output with the feature module; and
responding to the safety event based upon the safety event output in accordance with a safety response with the feature module.

38. (canceled)

39. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein the sensing uses a sensor coupled to the process device.

40. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein the process device couples to a process control loop and sensing comprises sensing current flow in the process control loop.

41. (original) The method of claim 40 wherein monitoring comprises comparing the sensed current with a current value.

42. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein responding comprises controlling the current in a process control loop based upon a safety failure.

43. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein sensing comprises sensing power drawn by circuitry of the process device.
44. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein monitoring comprises detecting errors in the data stored in the memory.
45. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein responding comprises providing an alarm output.
46. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein responding comprises disconnecting the process device for a process control loop.
47. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein responding comprises compensating for the safety failure.
48. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein responding comprises correcting for errors in the data in the device.
49. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein sensing comprises sensing a voltage.
50. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein sensing comprises sensing a current.
51. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein the safety event comprises a possibility of a future component failure.
52. (previously presented) A process variable transmitter, comprising:
a process variable sensor to sense a process variable;
measurement circuitry to provide an output on a two wire process control loop related to the sensed process variable;
a retrofit apparatus to retrofit the process variable transmitter, comprising:
a device interface to retrofit to the process variable transmitter and provide an output

related to operation of a component of the process device, wherein the device interface comprises a connection to a databus of the process device which is used to transfer digital data between the component of the device and a microprocessor of the device;

a component monitor to retrofit to the process variable transmitter, monitor data carried on the databus and monitor operation of the component based upon the output from the device interface and identify a safety event of the component and provide a safety event output; and

a safety response module to retrofit to the process variable transmitter and respond to the safety event of the component based upon the safety event output in accordance with a safety response.

53. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the retrofit apparatus comprises a feature module ~~configured to~~ which couples to a sensor module.